

**HB 174: AN ACT REPEALING A STATE LIMITATION ON THE USE
OF SOUND REDUCTION DEVICES ON FIREARMS**

EXPOSURE 11
DATE 3/16/11
HB HB 174

SOUND SOURCE	SOUND PRESSURE LEVEL, dB	EFFECTS
122mm Howitzer	180	
.308 Rifle	170	
.44 Magnum Revolver	160	
20 Gauge Shotgun	150	Well Above Danger Threshold
.22 LR Standard Velocity	140	Danger Threshold for Impulse Sound
Jet Engine from 30 meters	130	Pain Threshold
Pneumatic Chipper	120	Threshold of Discomfort
Chainsaw from 1 meter	110	
Nightclub Music	100	Hearing Damage after 15 minutes
Diesel Truck from 1 meter	90	
Vacuum Cleaner	80	Maximum Safe Continuous Exposure
Midsize Automobile	70	
Conversational Speech 1m	60	
Average Home Noise	50	
Soft Whisper	40	
Rice Krispies	30	Threshold of Sleep Disruption
Mechanical Wristwatch	20	
Leaves Rustling in Distance	10	
Silence	0	Threshold of Hearing

Table adapted from Paulson, Alan; Silencer History and Performance Vol 1, 1996
Paladin Press, pp23-25

HB 174: AN ACT REPEALING A STATE LIMITATION ON THE USE OF SOUND REDUCTION DEVICES ON FIREARMS

WHY ARE FIREARM SUPPRESSORS NEEDED FOR HUNTING?

- A. Exposure to even a single unsuppressed gunshot can cause permanent hearing loss.
- B. EARPLUS AND MUFFS DO NOT PREVENT HEARING DAMAGE! They do not limit bone conduction of sound to inner ear. Finnish study of Army officers using hearing protection suffered hearing loss at 13 times the incidence in general population.
- C. An effective suppressor will reduce the report near the shooter's ear by around 30 dB, limiting the noise of a .308 to just below the threshold for hearing damage (140 dB)

DO SUPPRESSORS MAKE A FIREARM SILENT?

- A. No. They reduce the noise near the shooter to a safe level.
- B. The majority of gunshot noise heard by distant observers is from the sonic boom made by the bullet in flight. The noise level of a supersonic bullet exceeds 150 dB at 0.65 meters.
- C. A suppressor makes a .308 rifle sound like a 20g shotgun to a distant observer.

ARE SUPPRESSORS LEGAL FOR HUNTING IN OTHER AREAS?

- A. Suppressors are currently legal for civilian ownership in 38 states including Montana, and legal for hunting game animals in over half those states.
- B. Suppressors are legal for hunting game in England, France, Scotland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Poland, New Zeland...
- C. Suppressor use is MANDATORY in UK for hunting state lands due to noise and hearing protection concerns.

OTHER ADVANTAGES TO HUNTING WITH SUPPRESSORS:

- A. Hearing protection for hunting partners, especially children.
- B. Allows clear verbal communication between hunters, improving safety.
- C. Improves situational awareness of ambient sounds, increasing safety.

WHAT ABOUT POACHING?

- A. Suppressors DO NOT "silence" a firearm. Hollywood characterization is pure fiction and misrepresentation. They are not that quiet!
- B. To legally own a firearm suppressor you must submit to:
 - 1. Approval by local chief law enforcement official.
 - 2. Fingerprints and photographs.
 - 3. 50 state background check by ATFE.
- C. To a distant observer, an unsuppressed .22 rifle is still quieter than a suppressed .308.
- D. Compound bows and crossbows are truly silent to the distant observer.

**HB 174: AN ACT REPEALING A STATE LIMITATION ON THE USE
OF SOUND REDUCTION DEVICES ON FIREARMS**

